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Thomas, Walter*

Nanaimo, B.C. re invention for fuel

May-June 1918

(613)

Walter Thomas

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Nanaimo Gas Works
Nanaimo. B.C.
May 17. 1918

The President of the
University of Ontario

Dear Sir..

I beg to enclose a brief description of data on Carbon Fuel British Columbia displays no interest in the discovery no doubt on account of the usual custom of doubting any ability among one's own kindsmen. I understand you have large lumber mills in Your Province can they be interested. more can be done than is stated

Yours truly
Walter Thomas

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CARBON FUEL.

This is a fuel made from waste material found in all countries of the world. The following refers to a few sources of supply:

STRAW: According to estimates, made by professors of Alberta University, there are twenty million tons of straw burned, every year, on the Canadian Prairies. This amount of straw would produce seven million tons of carbon fuel containing from 90 to 94% of fixed carbon worth twice the amount it would cost to produce it.

WOOD: The wood wasted in British Columbia, including saw mill refuse, is about 15000 cords a day. This if converted into carbon fuel, would make 8,000 tons, worth twice the cost of producing it. There is one burner in Everett, 90 ft. in diameter and 150 ft. high, which was erected at a cost of $250,000, to burn wood waste, that might be profitably turned into carbon fuel. There is also an immense amount of wood wasted in the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, all of which might be converted into carbon fuel, and sold for twice the amount it cost to produce it.

DIFFERENT GRADES: It is now possible by a patented process to manufacture three different grades of carbon fuel:

1: Domestic fuel, superior to house coal or wood, on account of cleanliness and cheapness.

2: Light industrial fuel, suitable for locomotives, blacksmith shops, steamboats, brass foundries, bakeries, confectioneries, etc.

3: Metallurgical coke, suitable for the manufacture of pig iron, steel, and all blast furnaces.

MARKETS: The Alaska trade calls for tens of thousands of tons of sacked coal every year. All of this coal contains undesirable

qualities, such as high volatiles and a large percentage of ash. Special concentrated carbon fuel, made for this trade, by this process would put this coal out of the market.

MOTOR-BOATS

Motor-boats require an enormous quantity of gasoline and distillates. This gasoline can be replaced by carbon fuel at a much less cost, thus doing away with the dangerous use of gasoline. The apparatus for using the carbon fuel can be installed at a trifling cost.

FLUE DUST:

Flue dust may be prepared for the smelter by this process. In preparing it, anypercentage of fixed carbon can be incorporated with the dust; so that the product will become the heating agent to smelt iron ore, without the use of coke made from coal. As this carbon is made solely from wood waste the iron produced will be of the best quality, for it will be entirely free from sulphur. In fact, carbon fuel is better than the best coke. (See Comparative Analyses, page 3).

PROFITS:

1. Blacksmith coke or coal costs $20.00 while carbon fuel can be sold for half that amount at a good profit.
2. The best metallurhical coke, costing $28.00 a ton in Vancouver, can be replaced by carbon fuel at a cost of less than half that amount.

COST OF PLANT:

The cost of a carbon fuel plant, capable of producing 100 tons of carbon fuel a day, would be only 40% of a coke plant producing 100 tons of coke per day.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSES.

	Moisture	Volatile	Fixed Carbon	Ash	Sulphur.
Average Bituminous Coal (Pennsylvania)	2.00	32.90	53.90	11.34	0.68
Connersville Coke			88.96	9.74	0.810
Local Coke			77.00	23.00	Unknown
National Carbon Fuel	3.00	3.50	90.00	3.50	None

The analyses of the Carbon Fuel was made by the Assayer of the Government of British Columbia.

REMARKS: The discoverer of the method of making carbon fuel has patents covering his process. He is now prepared to enter into negotiations with any parties who would like to acquire the right to use the process, in the United States, or any parts of it, Canada, or in other parts of the world.

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

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June 3rd 1918

Dear President Falconer

I am returning herewith the letter of Mr Walter Thomas describing an invention for turning waste of various kinds into valuable fuel. Many people have tried to do this before but without very great success, but this man may possibly have a workable scheme, although I should be rather doubtful.

With all such propositions it is almost entirely a question as to whether the plan can be made to produce fuel at a low enough price, and there is nothing in these papers that would give any ideas along this line. Possibly Mr Thomas might interest the Ontario Government in his work in connection with their peat researches, or he might get some capitalist to take the matter up who would make it a private enterprise. Without a good deal more than these papers I could form no opinion of it.

Yours sincerely

Robert W. Angus

June 4th, 1918

Mr. N. Thomas,

Nanaimo Gas Works.

Dear Sir:

I have laid your letter and your invention with regard to the turning of waste of various kinds into valuable fuel before our Professor of Thermodynamics. He says that the success of such a plan depends entirely upon whether it can be made to produce fuel at a low enough price, and he tells me that he cannot decide from your papers whether this is possible or not.

He has suggested to me that probably you might be able to interest the Ontario Government in the work in connection with their peat researches, and failing that some capitalist might take up the matter and turn it into a private enterprise, but without more than these papers he can form no opinion as to its value.

Yours sincerely,

President.